

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/026,823
Response filed May 11, 2005
Reply to OA dated February 16, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 and 10-19 are currently being considered, of which claims 1, 12, 16, 18, and 19 have been amended. Claim 9 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of its subject matter. No new claims have been added and no new matter has been introduced.

Claims 1-7 and 9-19 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by USP 6,507,824 (**Yon et al.**).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The color-designating server according to claim 1 comprises the following characteristic features:

- A) “a customer database which stores user information, comprising use information”;
- B) the “use information relating to items to be colored, in correlation with user ID, specifying users of the color-designating server”;
- C) “when the user has been identified, the conditions-designating processing unit transmits the conditions-designating screen, specifying the types of resin and dye or pigment in accordance with the use data of the user, which was obtained by consulting the customer database, to the user terminal”; and

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D) "the conditions-designating screen further comprises means of designating requirements, according to the requirements of the user, obtained by consulting the customer database".

In contrast, **Yon et al.** disclose a color-selecting system for a potential purchaser. The Examiner has suggested, based on access control database 37 and firewall 41 disclosed in **Yon et al.**, that the system of **Yon et al.** includes a customer database which stores user information comprising use information. However, as stated in column 7, lines 1-12, of **Yon et al.**, the only one function of the access control database 37 is "access control". **Yon et al.** do not describe, teach, or suggest that the access control database 37 stores "use information" of the potential purchasers. Of course, the access control database 37 does not store information relating to items to be colored in correlation with user ID.

Yon et al. fail to describe, teach, or suggest a conditions-designating processing unit for transmitting a conditions-designating screen, specifying the types of resin and dye or pigment in accordance with the use data of the identified user.

Furthermore, **Yon et al.** fail describe, teach, or suggest that the conditions-designating screen further comprises means of designating requirements, according to the requirements of the user, obtained by consulting the customer database.

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In view of the above, **Yon et al.** clearly fail to disclose the features A) to D) set forth in claim 1, in combination with the other claimed features.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1-7 and 9-11 should be withdrawn.

Yon et al. fail to describe, teach, or suggest the following features of claim 12: “a customer database which stores user information, comprising use information relating to items to be colored, in correlation with user ID, specifying users of the color-designating server; and wherein, when the user has been identified, the conditions-designating processing unit transmits the conditions-designating screen, specifying the types of resin and dye or pigment in accordance with the use data of the user, which was obtained by consulting the customer database, to the user terminal, and the conditions-designating screen further comprises means of designating requirements, according to the requirements of the user, obtained by consulting the customer database”, in combination with the other claimed features.

Yon et al. fail to describe, teach, or suggest the following features of claims 16 and 19: “a third step of specifying users of the color-designating server by accessing a customer database which stores user information, comprising use information relating to items to be

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colored, in correlation with user ID, and when the user has been identified, a fourth step of transmitting the conditions-designating screen, specifying the types of resin and dye or pigment in accordance with the use data of the user, which was obtained by consulting the customer database, to the user terminal, and wherein the conditions-designating screen further comprises means of designating requirements, according to the requirements of the user, obtained by consulting the customer database”, in combination with the other claimed features.

Yon et al. fail to describe, teach, or suggest the following features of claim 18:
“specifying users of the color-designating server by accessing a customer database which stores user information, comprising use information relating to items to be colored, in correlation with user ID, when the user has been identified, transmitting the conditions-designating screen, specifying the types of resin and dye or pigment in accordance with the use data of the user, which was obtained by consulting the customer database, to the user terminal; when a color has been designated from the matchable colors, and a product in the color has been designated, the color-designating server receiving designated product data for specifying the color and the product, and order data, from the user terminal; the color-designating server transmitting the designated product data and the order data to the receive-order system; and the receive-order system performing receive-order processing based on the order data, which has been received, and wherein the conditions-designating screen further comprises means of designating

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requirements, according to the requirements of the user, obtained by consulting the customer database", in combination with the other claimed features.

Thus, in view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 12-19 should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, all claims currently being considered are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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